


AA" as disclosed on original Fig. 3. Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) have been amended to abbreviate "certificate registration" thereon. The amendments to Figs. 1-6(b) are clearly supported by the originally filed drawings, so that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

The amendments to the specification sections on pages 6 and 7 place the text from Figs. 1-5 in the appropriate figure descriptions, so no new matter is being added.

No fee is believed to be due for this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted

Date: 9-12-01


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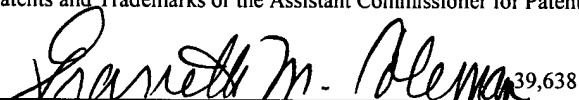
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Enclosures

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in the envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks or the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 16, 2001.

Granetta M. Coleman

(Name)


(Signature)

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9-12-01

(Date of Signature)

Marked-Up Copy of Specification Sections with Amendments

Page 6, lines 27-30:

Figure 1 a schematic representation of an electronic security/tender box system according to an embodiment of the present invention providing a Secure Electronic Deposit/Tender Box (SEDB) for an Account Holder (user or buyer) and AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued;

Page 7, lines 1-20:

Figure 2 a schematic representation of the electronic security /tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating uploading of ITT (Invitation To Tender) documentation onto a newly created SEDB by an Account Holder and Tender Box sends SSL email to Tenderers once ITT deposited;

Figure 3 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time selected Invited Participants (further users or selected tenderers/suppliers) are able to access the ITT documentation stored on the SEDB and Tenderers purchase E-certificate, access and receive ITT using certificate and email confirmation sent to AA;

Figure 4 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that selected tenderers upload their responses to the ITT onto the SEDB (also known as Tenders return completed ITT), and emails are sent notifying the Account Holder of this (also known as confirmation emails);

Figure 5 a schematic representation of the electronic security/tender box system of Figure 1 illustrating that after a predetermined date/time access to the documentation uploaded by the Invited Participants is granted to the Account Holder and the Account Holder is then able to download the documentation, the Invited Participants being notified by email of this, AA extracts ITT's after the appointed time, and email confirming sent to tenders;

Clean Copy of Specification Replacement Sections After Amendments

Page 6, lines 27-30:

Figure 1 a schematic representation of an electronic security/tender box system according to an embodiment of the present invention providing a Secure Electronic Deposit/Tender Box (SEDB) for an Account Holder (user or buyer) and AA's Application for a Tender Box is validated by the Electronic Signature Certificate issued;

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